**Amphibians of Woodleigh**

**Source: The information presented here is an edited version of the material available on the Frogs of Australia website, Mornington Peninsula Pages, accessed on Tuesday 12 October 2010.** [**http://frogs.org.au/frogs/ofVic/Mornington\_Peninsula**](http://frogs.org.au/frogs/ofVic/Mornington_Peninsula)

**Litoria ewingi (The Southern Brown Tree Frog)**

A widespread and common species found in great numbers in flooded grassland or marshes. An agile climber and jumper. Like most of our small tree frogs, this species is a voracious insectivore capable of leaping to catch a fly in mid-flight!

[](http://frogs.org.au/frogs/show_image.php?image_id=130)

**Distribution and habitat**

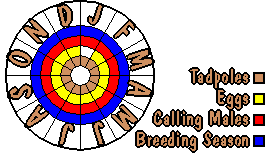


**Adults** can be found in all habitat types, and are even common in gardens in suburban areas. They frequent wet and flooded areas for breeding but can often be found calling long distances from water. **Eggs** and **tadpoles** can be found in still water in ponds, dams, lakes, streamside ponds and flooded roadside ditches.

**Calling**

Males usually call from the ground or in low vegetation, at the water's edge or in water, floating amongst the vegetation. The call is a series of rapid harsh, whirring pulsing notes repeated 5-15 times - "creeeeeee creee creee cree cree cree". The first note is usually the longest.

**Life cycle**



**Distinguishing characteristics**

**Adult length:** 25-45mm.  
500 - 700 pigmented **eggs** in jelly clumps are usually attached to submerged vegetation. The **tadpoles** are pale golden-yellow to dark grey and the fins are usually clear. The **adults** have pale fawn, cream, orange, or light brown sides. Breeding males have a light brown vocal sac. Occasionally green individuals, or partially green individuals, are found in western Victoria and South Australia.

**Visible features**

**Size**

Up to between 30mm and 60mm

**Eyes, hands, and feet**

**Pupils:** horizontal

**Toe pads:** present

**Webbing on feet:** half-webbing

**Belly**

**Texture:** smooth

**Pattern:** plain

**Colour:** single colour

**Back**

**Texture:** smooth

**Pattern:** plain **or** striped

**Colour:** single colour **or** multi-coloured

**Glands and tubercles**

**Parotoid gland:** absent

**Tibial gland:** absent

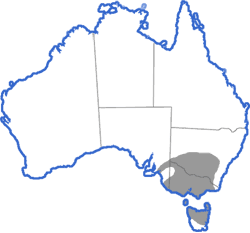
**Metatarsal tubercles:** Non-keratinised glands present (fleshy or uncoloured) **or** absent

**Litoria raniformis (The Growling Grass Frog)**

A widespread but only locally common frog, populations of which may be in decline. A close relative of [Litoria aurea](http://frogs.org.au/frogs/species/Litoria/aurea/) this frog also preys on other frogs and is active by day.

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**Distribution and habitat**

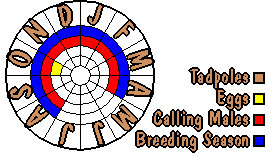
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**Adults** are usually found close to or in water or very wet areas in woodlands, shrublands, and open and disturbed areas. **Eggs** and **tadpoles** can be found in permanent lakes, swamps, dams, and lagoons with still water.

**Calling**

Males usually call while floating in open water. The call is a growl of about one second duration - "crawark-crawark-crok-crok".

**Life cycle**



**Distinguishing characteristics**

**Adult length:** 55-100mm.  
The **eggs** are pigmented and contained within a floating jelly raft which later breaks up and sinks. The **tadpoles** are pinkish-grey with yellowish fins. **Adults** are bright emerald to dull olive green with brown and/or gold blotches on a warty back. The tympanum (ear) is distinct, as is the dorso-lateral fold.

**Visible features**

**Size**

Up to greater than 90mm

**Eyes, hands, and feet**

**Pupils:** horizontal

**Toe pads:** present

**Webbing on feet:** full-webbing

**Belly**

**Texture:** smooth

**Pattern:** plain

**Colour:** single colour

**Back**

**Texture:** warty

**Pattern:** plain **or** mixed / marbled

**Colour:** single colour **or** multi-coloured

**Glands and tubercles**

**Parotoid gland:** absent

**Tibial gland:** absent

**Metatarsal tubercles:** Non-keratinised glands present (fleshy or uncoloured) **or** absent

**Ranidella signifera (The Common Froglet)**

A small ground dwelling frog, the Common Froglet is one of Eastern Australia's most common and widespread species. Its cricket-like chirping can be heard all day and all year round.

**[](http://frogs.org.au/frogs/show_image.php?image_id=144)**

**Distribution and habitat**

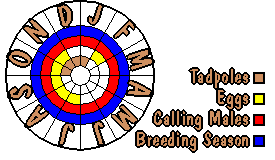


**Adults** are most common in wet and dry forests, woodlands, floodplains, open and disturbed areas, and alpine grasslands. Within these habitats they shelter under logs and other debris, usually in moist depressions or near water. It is not uncommon to find dozens of individuals under one log or rock. **Eggs** and **tadpoles** are aquatic and can be found in ponds, dams, swamps, flooded grassland, ditches and hollows.

**Calling**

Males call from among vegetation at the waters edge or floating in open water supported by vegetation. The call is a series of three to five pulsed calls, with a chirping quality, rapidly repeated in a long series - "crick crick crick crick crick".

**Life cycle**



**Distinguishing characteristics**

**Adult length:** 18-28mm.  
100 - 150 pigmented **eggs** are usually found individually or in loose clumps, scattered around the bottom of ponds. **Tadpoles** are light grey or brown all over with scattered dark flecks. **Adults** have a granular belly which is white or muddy white, heavily mottled with black or dark brown. The patterning on the back is variable but three patterns (morphs) are recognised: [1] ridged (longitudinal ridges along back); [2] lyrate (boomerang shaped ridges over the shoulder and on the back); and [3] smooth (back smooth, unpatterned, or with small warts).

**Visible features**

**Size**

Up to less than 30mm

**Eyes, hands, and feet**

**Pupils:** horizontal

**Toe pads:** absent

**Webbing on feet:** no webbing

**Belly**

**Texture:** rough

**Pattern:** marbled

**Colour:** multi-coloured with only black, grey, and white

**Back**

**Texture:** rough **or** warty **or** ridged

**Pattern:** striped **or** mixed / marbled

**Colour:** multi-coloured

**Glands and tubercles**

**Parotoid gland:** absent

**Tibial gland:** absent

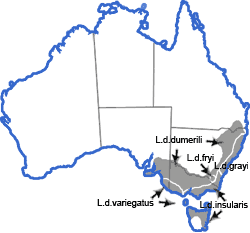
**Metatarsal tubercles:** absent

**Limnodynastes dumerili (The Pobblebonk Frog)**

This common and widespread burrowing frog may often be found in large numbers at night, particularly after rain.

**[](http://frogs.org.au/frogs/show_image.php?image_id=125)**

**Distribution and habitat**

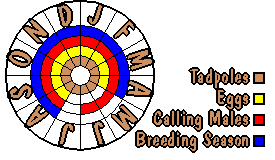


**Adults** frequent all habitats with the exception of alpine areas, rainforest, and extremely arid zones. **Eggs** and **tadpoles** inhabit still water in swamps, streams, dams, and lakes.

**Calling**

Males usually call concealed in floating vegetation or less commonly from land at the water's edge. The call is a short musical, explosive note producing a resonant "bonk". The call is usually repeated every few seconds. Some individuals from eastern populations can produce a rapid series of "bonk bonk bonk bonk" lasting about one second.

**Life cycle**



**Distinguishing characteristics**

**Adult length:** 50-85mm.  
Up to 4000 pigmented **eggs** are enclosed in a large (1200 - 1800mm diameter) white frothy floating foam raft usually concealed in aquatic vegetation. **Tadpoles** are large, dark brown or black and the fins are dark grey/brown. The fins and sometimes body are flecked with darker spots or flecks. **Adults** have a prominent tibial gland, a fleshy metatarsal tubercle and a smooth white or mottled belly.

**Visible features**

**Size**

Up to between 60mm and 90mm

**Eyes, hands, and feet**

**Pupils:** horizontal

**Toe pads:** absent

**Webbing on feet:** no webbing

**Belly**

**Texture:** smooth

**Pattern:** plain **or** marbled

**Colour:** single colour **or** multi-coloured with only black, grey, and white

**Back**

**Texture:** smooth **or** warty

**Pattern:** plain **or** spotted **or** striped **or** mixed / marbled

**Colour:** multi-coloured

**Glands and tubercles**

**Parotoid gland:** absent

**Tibial gland:** present

**Metatarsal tubercles:** Non-keratinised glands present (fleshy or uncoloured)

**Limnodynastes peroni (The Striped Marsh Frog)**

A large wetland-dwelling frog and voracious hunter, this frog eats almost any animal smaller than itself, including small frogs. Its distribution extends along the east coast from Queensland to South Australia. It is most commonly associated with wetlands and permanent water and shelters among reeds and other debris.

**[](http://frogs.org.au/frogs/show_image.php?image_id=136)**

**Distribution and habitat**

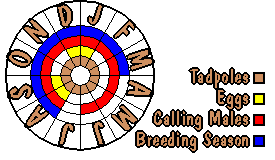


**Adults** can be found in rainforests, wet and dry forests, woodlands, shrublands, open and disturbed areas where they frequent swamps, flooded grasslands, pools and ponds. **Eggs** and **tadpoles** are found in still or very slow moving water in swamps, lakes, dams, and isolated ponds.

**Calling**

Males call from the water concealed in vegetation or sometimes concealed under the egg masses. The call is a single short soft explosive note very similar to that of the southern call race of [Limnodynastes tasmaniensis](http://frogs.org.au/frogs/species/Limnodynastes/tasmaniensis/). A "tock" or "poc" with similar inflections to a hen's "cluck".

**Life cycle**



**Distinguishing characteristics**

**Adult length:** 45-75mm.  
**Eggs** may be pigmented (east of Melbourne) or unpigmented (west of Melbourne) and are contained within a foam raft concealed in reeds, rushes, and other aquatic vegetation. **Tadpoles** are usually light brown or silvery grey on both body and fins. **Adults** range from pale fawn to golden-brown with dark brown or black longitudinal stripes along the back. **Juveniles** may have only a series of longitudinally aligned spots or streaks.

**Visible features**

**Size**

Up to between 60mm and 90mm

**Eyes, hands, and feet**

**Pupils:** horizontal

**Toe pads:** absent

**Webbing on feet:** no webbing

**Belly**

**Texture:** smooth

**Pattern:** plain

**Colour:** single colour

**Back**

**Texture:** smooth

**Pattern:** striped

**Colour:** multi-coloured

**Glands and tubercles**

**Parotoid gland:** absent

**Tibial gland:** absent

**Metatarsal tubercles:** Non-keratinised glands present (fleshy or uncoloured)

**Limnodynastes tasmaniensis (The Spotted Marsh Frog)**

One of the most common frogs within its range. The frog is usually found in association with water, and in dry periods shelters in cracks in the ground, usually under large rocks.

**[](http://frogs.org.au/frogs/show_image.php?image_id=137)**

**Distribution and habitat**



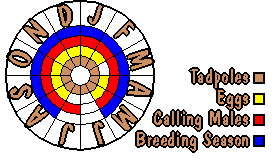
**Adults** are most often associated with wet areas, flood plains, and semi-permanent water in habitats ranging from open forests and woodlands through shrublands and grasslands and including open and disturbed areas. Often common on farms and in farms dams. **Eggs** and **tadpoles** can both be found in still water in dams, streamside ponds, lakes, swamps, and flooded grasslands.

**Calling**

Males call while floating in water, most often concealed in floating vegetation. There are two call races for this species. The northern call race (central, northern, and eastern Victoria) has a short staccato call of three or four distinct notes repeated in long series - "kuk-kuk-kuk".

The southern call race (western and south-eastern Victoria) has a single sharp call - "click" or "plock" - similar to the sound made when two stones are struck together.

**Life cycle**



**Distinguishing characteristics**

**Adult length:** 30-47mm.  
80 to 1500 pigmented **eggs** are contained within a floating foam mass measuring between 50 and 80mm in diameter. **Tadpoles** are olive grey, dark grey, or black, and the fins are usually semi-transparent or light grey. **Adults** usually have large regularly-shaped olive green blotches on the back and sometimes have a yellow, red, or orange mid-dorsal stripe.

**Visible features**

**Size**

Up to between 30mm and 60mm

**Eyes, hands, and feet**

**Pupils:** horizontal

**Toe pads:** absent

**Webbing on feet:** no webbing

**Belly**

**Texture:** smooth

**Pattern:** plain

**Colour:** single colour

**Back**

**Texture:** smooth **or** warty

**Pattern:** spotted **or** striped **or** mixed / marbled

**Colour:** multi-coloured

**Glands and tubercles**

**Parotoid gland:** absent

**Tibial gland:** absent

**Metatarsal tubercles:** Non-keratinised glands present (fleshy or uncoloured)

**Paracrinia haswelli (The red groined Froglet)**

A small ground-dwelling species, previously placed in the genus [Crinia](http://frogs.org.au/frogs/genus/Crinia/). Most often found near water this species extends along the coast from Sydney to the Mornington Peninsula.

**[](http://frogs.org.au/frogs/show_image.php?image_id=133)**

**Distribution and habitat**

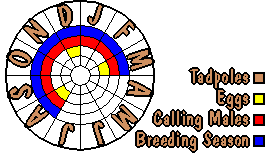


**Adults** can be found in both wet and dry forests, woodlands, shrublands and coastal heath but are invariably associated with water. Both **eggs** and **tadpoles** can be found in still water ranging from coastal swamps to dams, swamps and ponds.

**Calling**

Males call from concealed locations in either leaf litter or terrestrial or aquatic vegetation. The call is a very short, explosive note repeated at intervals of about ten seconds - "aak" or "ank". Often sounds like ducks quacking in the distance.

**Life cycle**



**Distinguishing characteristics**

**Adult length:** 25-32mm.  
**Eggs** are pigmented and the **tadpoles** are light olive green with clear, very deep fins. **Adults** have smooth bellies, a fine mid-dorsal stripe, and bright red patches in the groin and on the hind-side of the thighs.